

May 2005

NORTHERN COMMAND

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*

Major Richard Varner

## Overview

During the month of May, the Northern Command's overall vehicle crash rate increased by 1.8% when compared to April. There was a slight decrease in property damage crashes and a slight increase in injury crashes. However, there was a dramatic 57.1% reduction in DUI crashes from 24 to 9. This reduction can be tied to the increased number of DUI arrests made prior to a crash.

The high crash areas in Reno and Carson City continue to be in the construction zones in the "Spaghetti Bowl" in Reno and the U.S. 395 bypass project and the Topsy Lane area in Carson City. The majority of the crashes in these areas are the result of rear-end collisions. Directed enforcement activities are being conducted in these areas in an attempt to reduce the crash rates.

The Command's overall enforcement activity increased 15.3% as compared to last month and increased 32.3% as compared to May 2004. Occupant restraint violations increased 49% from 453 last month to 675 in May. Part of this increase can be tied to the recently completed "Click it or Ticket" campaign. Of particular note is that DUI arrests prior to crashes increased 31.7% from 82 last month to 108 this month. This increase coupled with the reduction in crashes involving a DUI demonstrates that our enforcement efforts are showing some success.

Commercial Enforcement Operations activities improved considerably as compared to last month. Most categories showed overall increases ranging from 48% to 257%. However, overweigh citations decreased 35.1% from 74 to 48 and dyed fuel citations decreased 66.7% from 3 to 1. The impressive increases are attributed to better weather conditions and the additional check site activity conducted in May.

Air 1 flew a total of 56.9 hours and conducted a total of eight enforcement missions which resulted in 317 citations being issued and one drunk driver being arrested.

The Communication Center handled a total of 102,273 radio transmissions which is an increase of 8.9% when compared to last May and a 13.4% increase when compared to last month. CAD incidents increased by 17.9% when compared to last May and increased 18.1% when compared to April. These increases can be attributed to the increase in enforcement activity and the increased number of personnel which were on duty as compared to last month.

The personnel of the Northern Command are commended for their continued service to the citizens and visitors of the State of Nevada.

### Content:

Crash Analysis

Field Enforcement

*Traffic*

*Commercial*

*Air Operations*

Administrative Services

*Communications*

*Public Information*

*Published*

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NORTHERN COMMAND

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	May 2005		May 2004	% Change		April 2005	% Change
Total Crashes	343		327	4.9%		337	1.8%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	222		198	12.1%		223	-0.4%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	118		123	-4.1%		109	8.3%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	4		5	-20.0%		4	0.0%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	9		24	-62.5%		21	-57.1%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	5		5	0.0%		4	25.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	2		3	-33.3%		0	200.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0		0	0.0%		0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	2		1	100.0%		1	100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0		1	-100.0%		0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	1		0	100.0%		1	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	19		13	46.2%		13	46.2%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	15		5	200.0%		10	50.0%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3		8	-62.5%		3	0.0%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1		0	100.0%		0	100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 1.2%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 2.6%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 50.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 5.5%

The month of May showed a slight increase in overall vehicle crashes with property damage crashes dropping and injury crashes increasing slightly. The fatal crash rate remained the same.

The Reno Urban and Carson City areas still suffers from crashes that are directly influenced by the construction zones in the areas of the "Spaghetti Bowl" and the North McCarran/Clear Acre interchange in Reno and the US 395 bypass project in Carson City. There are ongoing efforts directed at these areas to try to reduce the crash rates. The ongoing efforts will not be relaxed and additional special enforcement methods will be used to further reduce or at least maintain the current rates.

Troopers will continue to work accident prevention enforcement targeting accident causing violations in our high accident areas. Accident causing violations remain following too close as a significant number of crashes are rear-end collisions.

The month of May shows one fatal crash involving a commercial vehicle. The commercial vehicle was traveling on IR80 when a tire and wheel that had come off of a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction bounced over the center divider and struck the commercial vehicle in the windshield killing the driver.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	May 2005	May 2004	% Change	April 2005	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	9	3	200.0%	16	-43.8%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	108	78	38.5%	82	31.7%
Other Arrests	431	342	26.0%	393	9.7%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	208	169	23.1%	191	8.9%
Speed violations	2461	2194	12.2%	2151	14.4%
Hazardous moving violations	758	642	18.1%	715	6.0%
Occupant restraint violations *	675	614	9.9%	453	49.0%
Total violations [above violations included]	6375	4818	32.3%	5527	15.3%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>					
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	63	15	320.0%	35	80.0%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	47	6	683.3%	31	51.6%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	687	547	25.6%	363	89.3%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	364	221	64.7%	205	77.6%
Total safety violations -- repair order	2000	930	115.1%	1104	81.2%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	113	89	27.0%	76	48.7%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	53	29	82.8%	21	152.4%
Total school buses inspected	103	125	-17.6%	92	12.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	50	38	31.6%	14	257.1%
Total trucks weighed	191	553	-65.5%	164	16.5%
Total overweight citations	48	23	108.7%	74	-35.1%
Total dyed fuel inspections	498	380	31.1%	202	146.5%
Total dyed fuel citations	1	3	-66.7%	3	-66.7%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

Enforcement numbers overall showed a good increase of 15.3%. The continued efforts of the Northern Command officers despite their reduced manpower numbers shows that the level of individual effort is still remaining at a good level.

As manpower allows special enforcement activities are being enacted with the goal of reducing violations in given areas of the command. This is an ongoing effort to reduce the number and severity of crashes in the command.

Of note is the sharp increase in DUI arrests prior to a crash. This coupled with the reduction in crashes involving a DUI show that our enforcement efforts are showing a level of success.

## **COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

This fiscal year continues through September 30, 2005. In May, Northern Command Commercial Operations continued to conduct activities to meet the Federal and State Goals. Commercial Operations is still slightly behind on the CVSP (Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan) Annual Goal Achievement for the Federal Fiscal Year, although monthly goals increased in all areas except for overweight and dyed fuel citations.

Overall activity for Commercial Operations showed remarkable increases as compared to last month. The increases in activity can be attributed to better weather, a slight reduction in the number of personnel attending training and the additional check site activity conducted this month. Arrests, citations, and safety inspections showed significant increases as anticipated. MRO's also showed significant increases. Numerous commercial officers performed high levels of inspections and other activities had a definite impact on the increases in overall activity. The good weather during the summer months seems to motivate the commercial personnel to increase activity because it enables them to conduct more of a variety of activities that are sometimes restricted due to inclement weather conditions.

The Commercial Operations CVSI's have been tasked with the statutorily required school bus inspection program. During the month of May, the inspection process continued as outlined in the Nevada Revised Statutes. Throughout the inspection process this month, it was discovered that the out of service rate has continued to be at or near 30%. This rate is unacceptable. The common out of service violations are: emergency exits, exhaust systems, pupil seats barriers and brakes. This out of service rate raises concern and it appears that another meeting may be necessary between the County School District and the Commercial Operations in order to ensure the safety of the students being transported.

The training for new personnel and refresher training for our existing personnel continues. In May, we certified a total of seven personnel in the Cargo Tank Inspection Course. May also began mandatory ICS training for Commercial Operations.

Although May represents the first month of 2005 that Commercial Operations was fully staffed, there are eight (8) commercial officers with less than one year of commercial enforcement experience. Two of these officers do not have any of the required commercial training which would enable them to perform commercial activities unassisted. It is noteworthy that several of the new commercial personnel are putting out inspection numbers of veteran officers. All Commercial Operations personnel did a good job of increasing activity levels for the month of May.

## **AIR OPERATIONS**

Air 1 flew a total of 56.9 hours during May, an 18% increase over May of 2004. Four of twelve scheduled enforcement missions were cancelled due to inclement weather. 317 citations were issued and one drunk driver was arrested. On Memorial Day, enforcement in Winnemucca resulted in 45 citations in a 3 hour period. 21 vehicles were clocked above 90 mph and 4 were clocked at over 100 mph.

Attendance at the Eureka Air Show was cancelled due to the weather; however the Silver Springs Air Show was attended on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>.

The NDI polygraph examiner was transported to and from Elko for tests and three in-state prisoner transports were conducted during the month.

The Flight Operations program policies and procedures have been completed and submitted to command for approval.



**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	May 2005	May 2004	% Change	April 2005	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions	102273	93924	8.9%	90152	13.4%
CAD incidents	11478	9735	17.9%	9722	18.1%
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	400	219	82.65%	417	-4.08%
Arrest Reports Processed	179	132	35.61%	136	31.62%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	3	Unk	Unk	4	-25%
Office Accident Reports Taken	19	14	35.71%	21	-9.52%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	408	456	-10.53%	322	26.71%
Warrants Entered	407	338	20.41%	410	-0.73%
Warrants Cleared	675	600	12.5%	530	27.36%
Warrants Validated	198	405	-51.11%	143	38.46%
Citations Processed	1782	3389	unk	3460	unk
Extradition / Transports					
EVIDENCE					
New Cases Submitted	41	32	-21.95%	40	103.13%
New Items Submitted	63	48	-23.81%	70	-23.81%
Items Disposed	48	65	35.42%	22	35.42%

**FRONT OFFICE**

The front office work hours lost increased significantly this reporting period due to increased sick leave and family sick leave taken. Use of compensatory time decreased by 93%. Annual leave was up by 87%. Fifty-two hours of training were provided as a combination of State classes with "Critical Incident Stress Management courses for one AAIL. Eighteen hours of overtime were used during this month to cover the sick leave absences. Backlogged citations are now current through February 5th. These are being worked on daily by a trooper who is on light duty, and the Command secretary. One AAIL position has been vacated, but will be immediately replaced by a transfer from dispatch on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The number of accident reports processed decreased by 4%, to 400 this period. One hundred seventy-nine arrest reports were processed, as one assistant is still training on the local arrest desk. Office reports taken decreased by 9%. The accident request desk has been brought current through this week, as a total of 400 reports were copied and disseminated this month. Customer satisfaction has been restored with this better level of service being provided.

**COURT WARRANTS**

The staff is current with entering warrants. There was an increase in warrants received, but a slight .73% decrease in entry. Warrants cleared increased by 27%. Validations also increased by 38%.

Comparison for citations processed are unavailable due to a medical emergency with the citation clerk, and only 1782 were counted. The trooper placed on light duty processed the remainder of cites issued over Memorial Day weekend, but a final count was unavailable. Legibility remains a continuous problem cited by all clerks attempting to enter the citations into Crossroads.

Goals for the administrative section: We are still attempting to cross-train each AAIL in all aspects of their Work Performance Standards. The supervisor is still working on providing current and updated standards in each of the elements for goal-setting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

The Northern Command Communication center currently has two vacant Public Safety Dispatcher positions. A third position will become vacant in June when Dana Brown transfers to the front office. An open competitive list was obtained from the recruitment and interviews were completed. There are currently 5 people with backgrounds to process. Total work hours lost decreased by 16.3% since last month primarily due to an increase in training usage. Mandatory training was held for JLCClient and the III Error Log. Compensatory overtime decreased by 63.7% when compared to the same period last year. Overtime as a whole decreased by 20.9% when compared to the same period last year and increased by 16.3% when compared to last month. The decrease from last year is primarily due to the increased use of flexible scheduling and day off trading. The increase over last month is primarily due to training and sick leave. The coverage of Sick Leave accounted for 42% of overtime, followed by 33.5% for Training, 17.6% for Meetings, and 4% for the Vacant position.

The radio transmissions in May increased by 8.9% when compared to last May and increased by 13.4% when compared to last month. The CAD incidents increased by 17.9% when compared to last May and increased by 18.1% when compared to last month. These increases can be attributed to an increased number of Dispatch personnel over the same period last year as well as an increased number of incidents (including the Memorial Day holiday) and field personnel on duty versus last month.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The month of May was filled with a variety of activities and events. Members of the division honor guard attended a funeral for a fallen Pittsburg, California police officer who was shot and killed in the line of duty. His funeral service was held in Concord, Ca. The honor guard also represented the Division during police week at the memorial services in Carson City, Reno and the California Highway Patrol academy in Sacramento.

Trooper Steve Pagni worked the last shift of his 33 years of service and celebrated by having dinner with his co-workers. His official retirement dinner and celebration is scheduled for Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Airport Plaza in Reno.

Other community events which we attended locally in northern Nevada included the statewide competition of high school mechanics classes hosted by Ford and the American Automobile Association, Silver Springs Air Show, motorcycle safety booth, and the child seat safety checkpoint that officially kicked off the "click it or ticket" seatbelt campaign. The division continues to be seen in the media regularly by conducting 3 live traffic report interviews every Monday on News Channel 8, Tuesdays and Thursdays on 94.5 FM, and the weekly radio show "Trooper Talk" on AM 1400.

The radio station 94.5 "Cub Country" also did a live 2 hour remote broadcast from our Northern Command headquarters building for "Operation Yellow Ribbon". The radio station has made a 10' X 20' yellow colored support card for the military members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. They broadcast from a different location daily in an attempt to gather signatures from the community. There was a good response from the community that day and public safety brochures

were available for distribution. That event generated a lot of free advertising for the division. Also during the month, Trooper Allen, sponsored by Special Olympics Nevada, represented the division at their athlete's games in Las Vegas. As we end the month and approach June, there will be more events to participate in. The "click it or ticket" seatbelt campaign also continues and also has generated several print and television reports.



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